

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2779
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
IMPORT OF PEPPER
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that import of pepper from Sri Lanka has increased many times during 2001-02 to 2002-03 as a result of free trade agreement with that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the domestic pepper industry has been affected adversely by these imports;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any effective measures to put a cap on import of pepper under the concessional duty; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): There is an increase in import of pepper during 2002-2003 over the previous year not only from Sri Lanka but also global imports in the following manner:-

Year	Imports from Sri Lanka	Global Imports
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	Quantity (tonnes)	Value Rs. Lakhs	Quantity (tonnes)	Value Rs. Lakhs
2000-2001	1759.00	2790.66	6024.75	6001.68
2001-2002	1240.54	1605.08	6328.16	5636.27
2002-2003	6373.61	5888.10	15750.00	12521.43

Source: Spices Board

(c) to (e): The total production of pepper in India and its exports is as follows:-

Year	Total Production of Pepper in India (Quantity in tonnes)	Exports from India (Quantity in tonnes)
2000-2001	63670	19250
2001-2002	50800	24000
2002-2003	80000 #	20000

Source: Spices Board

Estimate for the year 2002.

>From above it would appear clear that the total exports of pepper is much higher than the

total global imports of pepper to India. Further, the imports of pepper from Sri Lanka during the year 2002-2003 is only 8% of the total production of pepper in India and therefore it cannot be conclusively stated that the domestic pepper industry is adversely affected due to these imports.